

AGENCE PANAFRICAINE
DE LA GRANDE MURAILLE VERTE
APGMV



PAN-AFRICAN AGENCY
OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL
PAGGW

الوكالة الإفريقية للسور الأخضر الكبير

**8TH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**
Abuja, June 16th, 2022

FINAL REPORT

JUNE 2022

Abdulmuttaq

1. On **Thursday, June 16, 2022**, the 8th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall (APGMV) under the chairmanship of **HE Mr. Mohammed Abdullahi**, Federal Minister of the Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairman of the Council of Ministers was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria,
2. The following took part in this session:
 - **The Ministers in charge of the GGW of the member states of the PAGGW**
 - **For the Republic of NIGER**, **HE Mrs. Garama Saratu Rabiou INOUSSA**, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Desertification;
 - **For the Republic of CHAD**, **HE Mahamat Ahmat LAZINA**, Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development;
 - **For the Federal Republic of NIGERIA**, **HE Barr. Mohammed H. ABDULLAHI**, Federal Minister for the Environment;
 - **For BURKINA FASO**, **Mr. Adama DOULKOM**, Representative of **HE Dr. Maminata TRAORE COULIBALY** Minister of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation;
 - **For the Republic of DJIBOUTI**, **Mr. Houssein RIRACHE**, representative of **HE Mohamed ABDOULKADER MOUSSA**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Djibouti;
 - **For the Republic of MALI**, **Mr. Toumany DIALLO**, Representative of **H.E.M Modibo KONE** Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Mali and **M. Sibiry SANOU**, 2nd advisor of the Embassy of Mali in Abuja, Representative of **HE Moustapha TRAORE** Permanent Ambassador of Mali in Nigeria;
 - **For the Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA**, **HE. Amedi CAMARA** Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to Nigeria, Representative of **HE Aissata Daouda DIALLO**, Minister of Environment and Environment and Sustainable Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
 - **For the Republic of SENEGAL**, **Mr. Oumar Abdoulaye BA**, representative **HE Abdou Karim SALL**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development;
 - **For the Republic of SUDAN**, **Dr Sawsan Khair Elseid Abdel Rahim Mustafa**, Representative of **HE Abubeker Omer ELBUSHARA**, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry;
 - **The Ministers in charge of Finance and Planning of the member states of the PAGGW**
 - **For the Federal Republic of NIGERIA**, **HE Zainab AHMED**, Federal Minister of Finance, Budget and Planning
 - **For BURKINA FASO**, **Mr. Felix Marie YAMEOGO**, Representative of **HE Seglaro Abel SOME**, Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning;
 - **For the Republic of MALI**, **Mr. Sibiry SANOU**, Representative of **HE Mr. Alousséni SANOU** Minister of Economy and Finance;



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Absent :

- For Ethiopia: **HE Prof Fekadi BEYENE**, Commissioner in charge of the Environment;
- For State of Eritrea: **HE Mr. Tesfai GHEBRESSELAASSIE**, Minister of Environment, Lands and Water

➤ **The statutory institutions that are members of the Technical Committee of Experts**

- For the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), **Mr Phillipe ZOUNGRANA**, Representative of **Dr Abdoulaye MOHAMADOU**, Executive Secretary;
- For the African Union (AU) Commission, **HE Mrs. Leonel Josefa Correia SAKHO**, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;
- For African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), **Ambassador Amadou DIALLO**, Representative of **HE Nardos Bekele THOMAS** Executive Secretary.

Absent :

- Sahara and Sahel Observatory,
- COMIFAC,
- CENSAD,
- IGAD.

➤ **The following international and regional institutions also took part in the Session:**

➤ **International and regional partner institutions:**

- For the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), **Dr Birguy LAMIZANA**, Representative of **Mr Ibrahim THIAW**, Executive Secretary,
- For the African Development Bank (AfDB), **Dr Arona SOUMARE**, Regional Coordinator,
- For the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP): **Mr Adamou BOUHARI**, **UNEP - GEF Project Coordinator**,
- For the Accelerator: **Mr. Phillipe LACOSTE**, Director of Sustainable Development at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Representative of France (Webinar),



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- For Birdlife international: Mr. Geoffroy CITEGESTE, Program Manager.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

3. The Opening Ceremony of the Council of Ministers was marked by the speeches of the following personalities:
 - Welcome address of the Director General of the National Agency of the Great Green Wall of Nigeria Dr. Yusuf Maina-Bukar,
 - Word from Dr. Birguy LAMIZANA, Representative of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, on behalf of the technical partners,
 - Word from Dr. Arona SOUMARE, Regional Coordinator, AfDB, on behalf of the financial partners;
 - Word from Dr. Brahim SAID, Executive Secretary of the PAGGW,
 - Word from HE Ms. Leonel Josefa Correia SAKHO, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment African Union;
 - Speech by HE Barr. Mohammed H. ABDULLAHI, Federal Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
 - Opening speech by H.E President Muhammadu BUHARI GCFR, represented by H.E Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo GCON.

The various speeches are appended to this report.

II. PROCEEDING

ITEM 1: VERIFICATION OF THE QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA, WORK PROGRAM AND APPOINTMENT OF THE BUREAU OF THE 8th Ordinary SESSION:

4. The President of the Council of Ministers HE Mr. Mohammed H. ABUDULLAHI, Federal Minister of the Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, having noted that the quorum was reached, recalled the items on the Agenda.
5. After consideration, the draft Agenda and Work Program were adopted and annexed to this Report.
6. The composition of the office set up to conduct the work of the 8th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers is as follows:
 - Chairman: Federal Republic of Nigeria, HE Barr. Mohammed H. ABDULLAHI, Federal Minister for the Environment;
 - Rapporteurs:



- Republic of Niger, HE Ms. Garama Saratou Rabiou INOUSSA, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Desertification;
- Republic of Chad, HE Mahamat Ahmat LAZINA, Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development

ITEM 3: EXAMINATION AND ADOPTION OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITY REPORT PROGRAMS, 2021 BUDGET EXECUTION REPORTS AND 2022 PROGRAMMING

3.1. Adoption of the Technical Activity Report and Budget Execution Report for the 2021 financial year

7. The Board, after reviewing the Technical Activity and Budget Execution Reports, noted the consistency in the Results-based approach and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic situation coupled with the insecurity which strongly affected implementation of the activities of Technical Program of Activities and consequently, the level of execution of the 2021 budget.
8. The Board took note of the Technical Activity Report and the Budget Execution Report for the 2021 financial year, subject to the certification of the accounts. The Council congratulated the Executive Secretariat for the quality of the documents submitted.

3.2. Program of Technical Activities (PAT) 2022 and Draft Budget 2022

9. The Board, following the presentation of the draft Technical Activities Program (PAT 2022) and Budget for the 2022 financial year, which are part of the logic of stimulating a new set of dynamic actions to consolidate the current momentum of the Great Green Wall Initiative, welcomes the relevance of the planning and their coherence within the framework of the Decennial (Ten-Year) Priority Investment Plan 2021-2030.
10. The Board adopts the Technical Activities Program (PAT 2022) and the Agency's Budget for the 2022 financial year and asks the Executive Secretary to ensure their correct implementation.

ITEM 4. INSTITUTIONAL, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL MATTERS

4.1 Technical, institutional and organizational audit of the PAGGW and national structures

11. Following the presentation on the progress of this activity, it was noted that the Terms of Reference (ToR) have been shared with all stakeholders. The Ministers expressed the need to set up an inclusive monitoring committee that will ensure its effective implementation as soon as possible. Other experiences were shared, notably that of CILSS to serve as a source of inspiration.

4.2 Personal remuneration

12. Ministers agreed that the Secretariat should present to the Board a tabular data on (a) the current state of remuneration, and (b) the total remuneration after adjusting for the 25% increase. The Secretariat is also instructed to present a comparative analysis of the remuneration of other similar institutions such as AUDA-NEPAD, CILSS and the African Union taking into account the cost of living in Mauritania, as carried out each year by the System of United Nations. The latter should be provided by the UNEP representative in Mauritania.
13. All the relevant documents relating to the remuneration of the staff must be sent by mail to the President of the Council of Ministers a week following the Council of Ministers meeting for consideration.

4.3 Statutory Contributions

14. The Council of the Ministers, following the presentation of the status of contribution payments, congratulated those countries that are up to date, and urged other member countries to clear their arrears and pay their current contributions during the 1st quarter of each year.

4.4 Construction of Agency's Headquarters

15. The Council of Ministers, after the presentation of this item, welcomed the exceptional effort made by Nigeria with a voluntary allocation of US\$550,000 for the construction of the headquarters. The Council requested the PAGGW Secretariat to write a letter of thanks for the signature of the President of the Council of Ministers to be addressed to HE the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

4.5 Evaluation of the mobilization of resources announced by the technical and financial partners

16. The financial resource mobilization has been the main challenge for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for several years. The purpose of the meeting held with the Technical and Financial Partners on June 15, 2022 was to obtain more information on this crucial issue. The Council of Ministers was informed of the current arrangements at the level of the Accelerator coordinated by the UNCCD, the AfDB, the UNDP, BirdLife International, UNEP and the GEF as part of the support for the PAGGW.
17. At the end of the exchanges, the Ministers appreciated the efforts made by these partners in supporting the Great Green Wall Initiative. The Council of Ministers mandates the Federal Minister of Finance, Budget and Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, within the framework of a High-Level Working Group, in conjunction with her colleagues from other member countries and the GGW Champion, to coordinate the mobilization of resources at the country level within the framework of the Great Green Wall Initiative.

4.6 Exchanges on the establishment of National Coalitions.





18. Discussions were focused on the relevance of National Coalitions in the mobilization of actors and sectors, the synergy of interventions and the pooling of financial resources in the implementation of the GGW Initiative. The ministers instructed on the institutional anchoring of these coalitions at a high political level, either at the Presidency or at the Prime Minister cabinets.

4.7 Organization of the 1st Edition of the Economic Forum on GGW Products

19. Following the presentation of this activity by the PAGGW, the Ministers congratulated this initiative and instructed the Secretariat to share the Concept Note and all relevant documents with all Member States by involving the Ministries of finance and Planning departments for an objective assessment of the necessary costs and forward it to the current President of the Council of Ministers for consideration.
20. The holding of this event will be decided by mutual agreement between the Ministers according to the results of the investigations provided. To this end, the Council of Ministers recommended the coupling of this event to the holding of the next Ordinary Session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the PAGGW.

4.8 Exchanges and Validation of the Multi-State Integrated Program

21. With regard to the preparation of this project, the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW gave information on its state of progress, which is considered very encouraging. The Terms of Reference (ToR) will be shared with all the partners for the finalization of the process.

4.9 Organization of the 1st Edition of the Youth Green Caravan

22. After presenting this item, the Ministers strongly expressed their support for this initiative, which will allow a strong involvement of youth of the Member States in the implementation of the GGW initiative. The Ministers asked the Secretariat to continue the process by including an Action Plan and the necessary costs for the implementation of this activity.

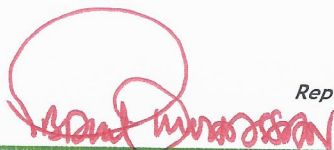
4.10 Operationalization of the Women's Green Platform

23. For this point, it was noted that some countries already have their own platform. However, it was recommended that this action would continue in all member countries in order to promote synergy between these different women's organizations.

ITEM 5: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 9th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

24. The Ministers agreed that the organization of the 9th Session of the Council of Ministers should take place before the end of the mandate of the current President of the Summit of Heads of State and Government.

ITEM 6: MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS



25. The Council of Ministers instructed the Executive Secretariat of the PAGGW to send vote of thanks to:

- HE Muhammadu BUHARI GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the donation of three vehicles to the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall;
- HE Barr. Mohammed H. ABDULLAHI, President of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall and the people of Nigeria for warm welcome and the good organization of the 8th Session of the Council of Ministers;
- HE M MAHAMADOU ISSOUFOU, Champion of the Great Green Wall, for the efforts made in the context of resource mobilization.

ITEM 7: READING AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS and REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE 8TH ORDINARY SESSION

26. Following the presentation of the various items on the agenda, the Ministers made the following recommendations:

Rec 01. Transmission of Members States' activity reports of the preceding year in the 1st quarter of the new year in order to facilitate the synthesis by the PAGGW in compliance with the proposed format;

Rec 02. Establishment of a recovery plan for arears of statutory contributions allowing the Agency to have sufficient resources for the construction of the Headquarters of the PAGGW;

Rec 03. Payment of statutory contributions in arears from the 1st quarter of each year by Member States.

Rec 04. Establishment of a monitoring committee made up of the PAGGW, member states and partners for the organization of Technical, Institutional and Organizational audit of PGGW and National Structures of GGW;

Rec 05. Finalization of the Audit implementation process within an overall period of 4 months;

Rec 06. Establishment of a support fund for capacity building in the development of regional and national programs and projects.

Rec 07. The Minister of Finance, Budget and Planning of Nigeria, in collaboration her colleagues from Member States, to coordinate the access to the funding by Countries through identified projects and programs under the GGW accelerator and other funding platforms;

Rec 08. Continuation and recognition of ongoing support for the implementation of the GGW by certain partners, in particular the UNCCD accelerator and the Global Mechanism, UNEP, AfDB, GEF, UNDP; BirdLife International.

Rec 09. The institutional attachment of the National Coalition at a high Political level within the countries, either at the Presidency or the Prime Minister Cabinet.



Rec 10. Link the organization and holding of the FOREP with the next session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Rec 11. Finalization of Terms of Reference for the development of Multi-States Integrated Program.

Rec 12. Provision to be made to federate youth movements around the youth green caravan initiative within the various member countries by September or October 2022.

Rec 13. Continued establishment of women's green platform in countries.

III. CLOSING CEREMONY

27. The closing ceremony was marked by:

- The reading of the motions of thanks read by the President of the Council of Ministers and the Minister of the Environment of Niger;
- The speech delivered by the Executive Secretary of the PAGGW;
- The Closing Speech of the Ordinary Session by the President of the Council of Ministers.

The Motions and Speeches are appended to this report

Dated this 16th day of June 2022 at Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria

For the Council of Ministers

- **Chair:** Federal Republic of Nigeria, HE Mr. Mohammed H. ABDULLAHI, Federal Minister for the Environment;
- **Rapporteurs:**
 - Republic of Niger, H.E. Mrs. Garama Saratou Rabiou INOUSSA, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification;
 - Republic of Chad, SE. Mr. Mahamat Ahmat LAZINA, Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development.

